primary lesion, since it closes the secretions, whence the reaction begins with a force equivalent to that of the first impression.

12. That the secretions, such as bile, urine, &c., which cannot be absorbed, may be secreted in other organs than the liver, kidney, &c., from a metastasis of their local stimulus, when suppressed, to secreting surfaces.

13. That the exciting causes of asphyxia produce general symptoms, on the same curative principle as that of other stimuli.

14. That all other diseases consist of the translation, through nervous media, of a local lesion of greater or less extent; and that the constitutional symptoms arise in the form of a reaction exactly proportioned to the disease, and adapted to effect its cure.

[ERRATA in Dr. Hake's Essay:—Page 802 (last vol.), two last lines, col. 1, *for chyle read blood*. Ditto, page 803, lines 45 and 47, col. 2, *for blood read chyle, and for had read has*.—Page 9 (present vol.), last line but nine, col. 1, *for are only read are not only*.—Page 109, last line, *for intestinal read interstitial*.—Page 110, line 23, *for fluid read a fluid*.]

HYDROTHORAX AND DISEASE OF THE HEART.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—THE insertion of the following case in your widely-extended journal will oblige your obedient servant,

JOHN LAURIE, M.D.

21, Castle Street, Edinburgh,
May 8, 1835.

I was called professionally, about four months ago, to attend William Wintour, of Coltbridge, near this city, spirit dealer, ætat. forty-one years, a stout athletic man, of sanguine temperament, and who had previously enjoyed a robust state of health. The symptoms at my visit were, occasional dyspnœa, with incessant cough, accompanied by an expectoration of bloody mucous matter, and about every eight or ten days he spat up about half a teacupful of blood. Nevertheless his appetite was good, and the functions of digestion were regularly performed. I adopted the usual mode of treatment which is regularly pursued in cases of hydrothorax and diseases of the heart. I have only been able to ascertain from his family, that about seven years ago he complained of occasional palpitation of the heart after any unusual bodily exertion or mental irritation, but was able to follow his customary avocations as a carter, until a short period of

time before I was called in, although many professional gentlemen had examined and prescribed in his case. He expired on the 24th of April instant, and the following are the morbid appearances which presented themselves at the post-mortem examination, which I performed on the 26th:—

On opening the thorax and examining the cavities of the pleura, about three pounds of fluid were discovered, and in the pericardium about one pound of serum was found. The heart was extraordinarily enlarged, about the size of that of a common-sized bullock. On making an incision into the right ventricle, it was found much enlarged, and whilst squeezing it, about two teacupfuls of coagulated blood escaped, along with a fatty tumour of an irregular oblong shape, supposed to weigh about six drachms, which measured in length three inches, in breadth two inches, and in thickness half an inch. The parietes were much thinner than usual. On laying open the left ventricle, that was also found in the same state of enlargement, but with this exception, that its parietes were about half an inch in thickness, constituting the combined diseases of hypertrophy and atrophy; nevertheless the valves of the heart and aorta had the appearance of health. The lungs were found in a high state of congestion, in fact, quite hepatized; still no adhesions were found between the pleura costalis and the pleura pulmonalis, and the lungs were free from tubercles and ulceration. On opening the abdomen, the liver was found a little enlarged, harder than usual, and very dark, evidently from congestion. The stomach and bowels, notwithstanding, had a healthy appearance.

On the Preparation and Medicinal Employment of Aconitine by the Endermic Method, in the Treatment of Tic Douloureux and other painful Affections. By A. TURNBULL, M.D. London. Longman, 1834, 8vo, pp. 48.

FEW new medicines, and few indeed new preparations of medicines, have helped much to assist the curative art, and advance the practice of medicine. The drugs which have acquired fame during the last fifty years, which have stood the test of experience up to the present hour, and which can now be regarded as useful additions to the materia medica, may be counted on the fingers once told. None but the young and inexperienced complain